



Volume 2, Issue 3

Ouranophantor

March 2019

A Newsletter of St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

733 S. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60607

www.stbasilchicago.org



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Parish Council President:

Jayme Schenk

Worship Hours

Sundays: Orthros 8:15 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy
Weekdays: Divine Liturgy 8:30 a.m.
Esperinos: For Major Feasts 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Paraklesis Service 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 3, 2019

- + Apokreatiko Glendi— immediately following Divine Liturgy in Philoptochos Hall

Monday, March 11, 2019

- + Koulouma Potluck — Great Compline followed by potluck dinner in Philoptochos Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

- + Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by “Having a Great Lent at Any Stage of Life” Lenten lecture/dinner in Philoptochos hall at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

- + Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by “Orthodoxy & Medical Healing” Lenten lecture/dinner in Philoptochos hall at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 23, 2019

- + Feed My Starving Children — From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 740 Wiley Farm Court, Schaumburg, IL

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

- + Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by “Celestial Hierarchy” Lenten lecture/dinner in Philoptochos hall at 6:00 p.m.

We welcome new families to our parish.

Now is the time to reach out to your loved ones who have fallen away for whatever reason and bring them back to church. Now is the time to share your faith with others. Together we must grow. Together we must build the Body of Christ. Invite someone to a service or to a church event. We have one of the friendliest communities in the Archdiocese. Let us go out so that they will know we are Christians by our love.

Follow on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Basil-Greek-Orthodox-Church-476775679041438/>

Sacraments and Blessings

40-Day Blessings:

February 3, 2019

Maria Ioanna

Daughter of Brian & Eleni Towne

Baptisms:



Chrismations:



Weddings:

February 17 2019

Natalie Joe Keable & Carl Michas

Sponsor: Pam Cosmos

Funerals:

February 22, 2019

George Karas

February 28, 2019

**Emmanouel Dimitrakopoulos
(Funeral held at Assumption Greek
Orthodox Church)**

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Father Dimitri's Message



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am not a fan of the “fasting police.” I do not care for the practice of judging our brothers and sisters for how they keep the fast. Never mind that it runs contrary to the Epistle of Judgment Sunday.

“Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.” **St. Paul's Letter to**

the Romans. But it also invalidates one's fast. St. Basil states, *“You do not eat meat, but you devour your brother.”*

Fasting is not a mere matter of diet. It is moral as well as physical. In the words of St. John Chrysostom, it means *“abstinence not only from food but from sins.”* “The fast”, he insists, *“should be kept not by the mouth alone but also by the eye, the ear, the feet, the hands and all the members of the body: the eye must abstain from impure sights, the ear from malicious gossip, the hands from acts of injustice.”*

This is a holy fast. And it is of great value. Fasting accomplishes two great feats, and both are critical during the Great and Holy Fast.



1). It sharpens the mind. One need only think of Thanksgiving afternoon to understand what gorging on food will do to one's senses. We become dull, sluggish, when not outright sleepy, as the body tries to digest the great feast we consumed. Could you imagine playing a game of basketball or running a marathon immediately after? Impossible. What about writing a substantive essay? Again, most difficult.

Boxers, traditionally, will fast before a match. The idea being that the little bit of hunger will make the brain synapses fire faster, which allows for more rapid thought. When dodging punches, one would want to have the fastest reflexes possible. It is the same in our spiritual lives, especially during Great and Holy Lent. We seek to pray long hours and increase our prayer rules as we prepare for Pascha. We want to be able to focus on our prayers, and we also want to be able to be watchful of the “jabs” of the enemy, who desires to spoil our fast with hatred and irritability.



2). The fast teaches self control. This is the heart of what St. John Chrysostom means and also why it is the first vice tackled by St. John Climacus in *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. He names it the gateway to the passions. *"The great attraction of **gluttony** is not necessarily concerned with large quantities of food, but in the temptation to have just a 'little taste.'* But if the wish for a taste succeeds in making you a slave to gluttony, the Evil One can then give you up utterly to destruction."

Therefore, almost all sins enter through this door: wrath, sloth, lust, pride, envy, vanity. If we cannot master our bellies we are doomed to worse. We must learn to say no, to master our bodies. St. John Climacus says that *"the prince of demons is the fallen Lucifer, and gluttony is the prince of the passions."* Therefore it can be said that *"the stomach is the cause of all human disaster Let us then ask of this archfoe: Who is your mother? Who are Your Children?"...And gluttony ... furiously raving at us, answers: Why do you try to separate yourself from me? I am bound to you by nature. I gain entry through the very nature of food [i.e., food is by nature pleasant to the taste and desirable]. The cause of my insatiability is habit. The foundation of my passion is repeated habit, insensitivity of the soul and forgetfulness of death Now learn the names of my first-born and best loved children: 1. fornication; 2. hard-heartedness; 3. drowsiness"* (**The Ladder**).



To acquire virtue, it is necessary to first rid ourselves of the passions. Fasting is the all-important first step and cannot be neglected.

That being said, fasting must be approached in a healthy manner with the aid of a spiritual father. If certain health concerns are present, such as diabetes, age, or other challenges, then fasting must be tempered. This is because fasting is a tool, not the goal. This is why "fasting police" irk me. We do not know the journey of any individual and what his or her spiritual father directed. Because of this, we must always assume that the individual is following the guidance of his or her priest unless that person asks advice.

This journey is not possible on willpower alone. We must pray for strength and our Savior's aid in conquering the fast. Almsgiving, prayer, and fasting are the tent poles of Great Lent. As we prepare for Pascha, we try to dedicate as much time as possible to all three, The fast is not merely about giving "something" up, but about sharpening our spiritual selves into better Christians. Great Lent affords us many opportunities to do this, and I pray that we all avail ourselves of them to our spiritual benefit.

Ευλογημένη Σαρακοστή και καλή μετάνοια.
Blessed 40 Days and Good Repentance.

Handwritten signature of Fr. Dimitri Tobias.

I remain your servant in Christ,
Fr. Dimitri Tobias, *Proistamenos*

Parish Council Update

By Themistocles Frangos

Dear St. Basil Parishioners and Friends of St. Basil,

While the frigid temperatures of Chicago have proved to be challenging, things have started strong at St. Basil this calendar year 2019.

On Saturday, February 3, we saw the return of the annual parish "Super Bowl Bash." The event was held at the Billy Goat Tavern on Madison Street and it was a great time of fellowship, food, and fun. We want to thank all those that attended the event and supported it through purchasing 50-50 raffle tickets and Super Bowl squares. The event was a great success and resulted in a substantial profit for the church. Thank you to the Sianis family for hosting the Super Bowl Bash, all those that donated to the event and provided their time, and especially to the chair people, Tony and Helene Frankos and Harry and Kathy Michas.

On Sunday, February 17, the Stewardship Committee led by Maria-Kanella Koper held a Stewardship Appreciation Sunday. Stewardship helps Saint Basil continue with its day-to-day operations and sustains the church's vibrant group of ministries servicing the parishioners of St. Basil and the community here in the Southwest Loop. This year the stewardship team had a goal of having 125 stewards signed up by Stewardship Appreciation Sunday. The committee is pleased to report that we nearly met our goal as to the number of stewards but have already exceed the pledged amount from the grand total of last year. We are off to a strong start for our final year target of having 190 stewards with a pledged amount of \$200,000 in stewardship. If you have not filled out a 2019 stewardship form, please consider making a commitment in helping the church continue its strong work. You can complete a form by visiting the church office or online at www.stbasilchicago.org.

On Sunday, March 3, St. Basil will hold its annual Apokreatiko Glendi before Great Lent, which begins on Monday, March 11. The event will be held immediately after church in the Philoptochos Hall and we encourage all parishioners to attend. The event is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 13 and under. Please call the church office to make a reservation.

Finally, we want to thank everyone for their continued support of the ministries, events, and happenings at St. Basil. None of the programming or events would be a success without your support, yet we see great potential for increased participation. We encourage all parishioners and supporters to invite one other individual to attend with you. If we all did that, we would double our participation in ministries and attendance at events. This will enhance our spiritual fellowship for all of us.

Have a blessed Great Lent,
Themistocles Frangos, Parish Council Secretary

Philoptochos Update

By Vana Kikos

Dear Parishioners,

Sunday, February 10, was National Philoptochos "Go Red Sunday" at St. Basil, and what a wonderful and informative event it was. Many thanks ladies and especially to our organizer, Mary Peroulas, for helping to bring attention to heart health with a Sunday filled with heart-healthy snacks, blood pressure testing by our Dr. Marina Arvanitis, and tons of interesting, helpful, and important publications from the American Heart Association.

St. Basil Philoptochos is getting ready for the Holy Lenten season. We will be baking several varieties of Koulouria which will be available for purchase. Please join us to help bake — see dates and times for Yiayia's Kouzina on page 7. If you would like to order Easter treats, pre-orders will be due by March 31, you can place your order in the Philoptochos Hall. Orders will be available for pick-up on April 21. Don't miss out--these are delicious and won't last.

Our next scheduled Philoptochos meeting will be held after church on March 9, and we ask all members to please stay if you can. We always welcome not only our members but also those interested in joining this wonderful women's Christian organization.

Looking forward to a blessed Lenten season.

Always in His Service,
Vana Kikos, Philoptochos President



Stewardship Update

By Maria-Kanella Koper



Registration for 2019 has begun. You can sign up at <http://www.stbasilchicago.org/our-parish/srtewardship/> or pick up a pamphlet at the pangari. We are looking forward to an exciting and prosperous year.

2019 Snapshot (as of February 18, 2019)

<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Collected</u>
127	\$185,839	\$68,227

By mid-February 2019 our pledged amount surpassed the total amount pledged in all of 2018, 2016, and 2015. This is incredible! Keep up the great work! 2019 will be a great year for our church. See how 2019 compares to previous years:

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
# of Stewards	166	175	181	156	127
Pledged \$ Amount	\$180,795	\$175,460	\$191,296	\$176,820	\$185,839

We are still looking for new members to join the stewardship team who are interested in helping grow the engagement of parishioners and new members at St. Basil. Stewardship Ministry meetings will be listed in the weekly bulletin. Please join us. We'd love to have you. If you are interested in being part of the team, please contact Maria-Kanella Koper at mariakkoper@gmail.com.

Have you become a steward of St. Basil's? Visit our website at www.stbasilchicago.org and click on "Our Parish" and "Stewardship" to learn more, or contact the church office at 312-243-3738 for additional information.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matt. 6:21)

Yiayia's Kouzina Update

By Cynthia Schroeder

Yiayia's Kouzina is looking for volunteers to help bake sweets in preparation for Easter. Baking will take place at St. Basil's Philoptochos Hall during the following times:

- + Saturday, March 9, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- + Wednesday, March 13, 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- + Saturday, April 13, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

If you would like to place an order, pre-order forms will be available in the Philoptochos Hall. All orders need to be submitted by Sunday, March 31.

Orders will be available for pick-up on April 21.



Confession with Fr. Dimitri

Call Fr. Dimitri Tobias to make an appointment.

Pray and think about your confession over several days. Ask God to help you perceive your sins and to make a thorough confession of them. Sometime before the sacrament of Holy Confession, offer selected prayers from the following Confessional Prayers, Psalm 51, or the following prayer of repentance:

Prayer of Repentance

O Lord my God, I confess that I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. I have also omitted to do what Your holy law requires of me. But now with repentance and contrition I turn again to Your love and mercy. I entreat You to forgive me all my transgression and to cleanse me from all my sins. Lord, fill my heart with the light of Your truth. Strengthen my will by Your grace. Teach me both to desire and to do only what pleases You. Amen.

Now, without justification or self-pity, make a prayerful examination of your conscience regarding all things. As a help, reflect on your life in the light of the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. Take pencil and paper and specify your sins so that, at the time of the sacrament, you will be able to make a thorough confession from the list, without confusion or lapse of memory,

The Ten Commandments

I am the Lord your God, and you shall have no other gods before me.

Has God been the source, center, and hope of my life? Have I put myself, others or things before God? Have I failed to trust in God's existence, love, and mercy? Have I failed to pray to God, to worship Him, and to thank Him for His blessings? Have I tried to serve God and keep His commandments faithfully? Have I murmured or complained against God in adversity? Have I praised and glorified God through my words and deeds?

You shall not make for yourself a graven image in order to worship it.

Have I valued anyone or anything above God? Have I given to anyone or anything the love, honor, and worship that belongs to God alone? Have I made an idol of any person, idea, occupation, or thing?

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Have I blasphemed God's holy name in any way? Have I sworn a false oath? Have I broken any solemn vow or promise? Have I entered into an agreement, promise, or contract against God's law? Have I cursed or used foul language?

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

Have I worshiped regularly on Sundays and major feast days and have I helped others to do the same? Have I worked unnecessarily on Sundays or major feast days or caused others to do so? Have I spent the Lord's Day in a wholesome and edifying ways?

Honor your father and mother.

Have I loved and respected my parents as I should? Have I neglected them or failed to help them? Have I disobeyed them, deceived them or caused them pain by my words or deeds? Have I treated all my family members with patience and love?

Thou shall not kill.

Have I caused the harm, injury, or death of anyone? Have I wished my own or anyone's harm or death? Have I been cruel to animals or destroyed any life unnecessarily?

You shall not commit adultery.

Have I committed any immoral acts alone or with others? Have I caused others to commit immoral acts? Have I committed immoral acts in my heart?

You shall not steal.

Have I taken anything that was not mine from anyone or from anywhere? Have I cheated anyone? Have I caused others to steal or cheat? Have I tried to find the owners of lost things I have found? Have I damaged or destroyed anything that belonged to another? Have I defrauded anyone of rightful wages? Have I paid my debts? Have I given to the poor and to philanthropic causes in proportion to my means?

You shall not bear false witness.

Have I given false testimony against anyone? Have I spoken evil, told lies, or spread rumors about anyone? Have I disclosed to anyone the sins and faults of another? Have I made careless statements or done anything else to harm the name and reputation of another? Have I engaged in idle gossip?

You shall not covet.

Have I looked with envy, jealousy, or hatred toward the possessions, talents, or achievements of others? Have I desired the downfall or loss of others out of evil intent that I might benefit? Have I grieved that God has bestowed greater blessings on others than on me?

Confession with Fr. Dimitri

Call Fr. Dimitri Tobias to make an appointment.

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Have I truly recognized my complete dependence on God? Have I been proud, arrogant, and self-righteous in my ways? Have I been selfish, possessive, and self-seeking? Have I sought after status, power, and wealth?

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Have I endured difficulties and afflictions with faith and patience? Have I felt sadness for the sufferings of the poor, the hungry, and addicted; the sick, the lonely, and the sinful of the world? Have I truly been sorrowful for my sins and faults?

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Have I tried to serve or rather to dominate others at home, school, work, office, Church, and elsewhere? Have I nursed against anyone? Have I been resentful, bitter, unforgiving, or insulting and abusive to others? Have I loved my enemies?

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Have I truly yearned for God's will to be done in all things? Have I worked for justice in my family, society, and the world in ways within my reach? Have I tried to cultivate a righteous life through prayer, fasting, worship, receiving Holy Communion, and deeds of love toward others?

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Have I shown compassion and help toward the poor, hungry, lonely, and needy around me? Have I tried to understand and forgive others? Have I been indifferent, judgmental, or legalistic?

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Have I loved goodness, purity, and holiness? Have I succumbed to evil motives and intentions? Have I given way to impure thoughts, words, or deeds? Have I been guilty of bias and prejudice? Have I been hypocritical, pretentious, or self-indulgent to sinful passions?

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

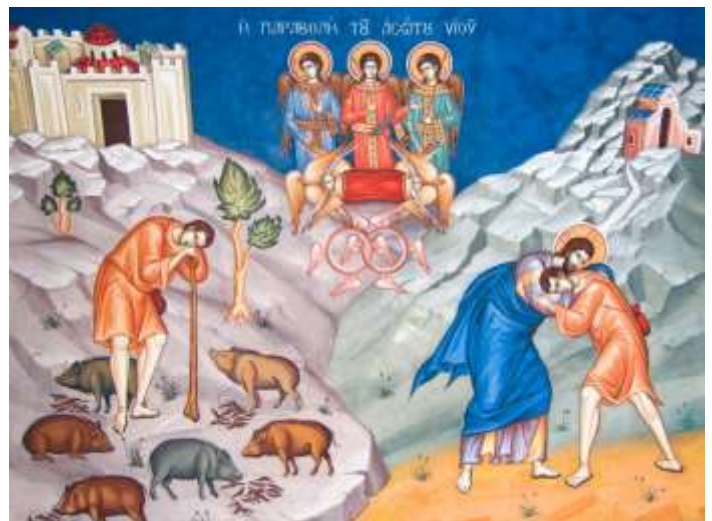
Do I have God's peace in my heart? Have I been unfairly angry, aggressive, or impatient? Have I worked for peace at home, work, Church, and in society? Have I been irritable, polemical, or divisive?

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Have I complained when persecuted for God's sake? Have I prayed for my persecutors? Have I failed to defend anyone in the truth for fear of humiliation or persecution? Have I had the courage to stand up for what is right despite criticism, ridicule, or persecution?

Blessed are you when they revile you and persecute you on my account; rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

Is the joy of Christ in my heart even in trying moments? Have I been pessimistic, despondent, or despairing? Have I truly delighted in the promise of God's treasures in heaven?



Someone You Should Know

Venus Campanelli

Venus Campanelli is a new face on St. Basil's parish council, bringing enthusiasm and fresh ideas to the group. Born Venus Kolettis, she grew up at Assumption Church on Chicago's West Side and went to Plato School. Her parents were born in the United States, but she grew up in a traditional, Greek-speaking household where her grandmother lived with them for many years. She notes that, "with my yiayia in our lives on a daily basis, I spoke Greek before I spoke English."

When her family moved to Hoffman Estates in 1975, they began attending St. Nektarios Church. After she got married in 1992, she started attending St. John the Baptist and Sts. Peter and Paul. Two years ago, she and her husband, John, and their two children, Hon and Sophia, moved to downtown Chicago. She began attending St. Basil Church at the suggestion of Harry and Kathy Michas, who have been lifelong friends of hers and faithful stewards of the parish for many years. Although her husband is Catholic, their two grown children were raised in the Greek Orthodox faith. On the whole, the family respects the traditions and beliefs of both faiths.

Professionally, Venus is the office manager for a small IT consulting firm in downtown Chicago. On a personal note, she and her husband enjoy living in the city. They take advantage of the lakefront and the Riverwalk whenever they can. They also spend time on a friend's boat.

Her main goal on the parish council is to increase the size of our congregation. "We are a welcoming parish," she observes. "There's not a mean soul here. That welcoming quality will help us grow. I was made to feel at home here, and we can do the same for others. That's a winning strategy for the future."



Sunday School

By Jennifer Georgopoulos

The St. Basil Sunday School students have been very busy preparing for the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival which will take place March 31, 2019, immediately following Divine Liturgy. Students 5th-7th have been researching and preparing topics for their presentations and grades K-4th have been practicing their prayers and songs. Teachers and students are so excited for this great event.

Great Lent begins March 11, 2019. We will continue using The Lenten Passports. The Lenten Passport is intended to be used as a means of enrichment and education on the students' journey through Lent to Pascha. It is a small booklet, about the size of an actual U.S. passport. Similar to a real passport, it has many different spaces for stamps; however, the stamps that go in this passport are of beautiful icons that correspond to each destination in the Lenten Passport. These passport stamps are received at each of the various services of the Triodion, Lent, Holy Week, and Special Destinations such as Confession, the Jesus Prayer, Lenten Retreat, and extra-Lenten services like Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday.

The Sunday School teachers and families will be attending and hosting the meal following The Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Wednesday, March 13, 2019. Dr. Randa Anderson will give a lecture. We are looking forward to listening to her lecture about "Having a Great Lent at any Stage of Life." The Sunday School team is excited about this event with our Sunday School families. We hope to see all the parents attend.

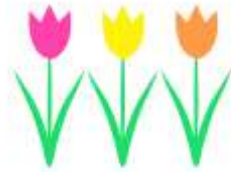
Student confessions with Father Dimitri will be Sunday, April 14, 2019. Please discuss the Ten Commandments with your child and visit Be the Bee #36, which discusses confession. Parents can view the entire series on YouTube. Please take the opportunity to view with your child. If you have any questions regarding Sunday School, please contact Jennifer Georgopoulos at jenspalla75@sbcglobal.net.



Girl's Ministry

By Presbytera Maria Tobias

SPRING 2019



Girls Ministry Activities

Saturday, March 23 ~ 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

740 Wiley Farm Court, Schaumburg, IL



Help save dying children by attending our next meal packing event at Feed My Starving Children. FMSC sends these meals that are specially formulated for malnourished children to their partners around the world to be used in orphanages, schools, clinics and feeding programs to break the cycle of poverty



Sunday, April 14 ~ Following Divine Liturgy

Fr. Dimitri and a Guest Speaker
to discuss on St. Mary of Egypt Sunday
"Orthodox Women in Action"



Sunday, May 12 ~ 9:45 a.m.

Youth Sunday

Girls will assist in the Narthex with candles, passing
& distributing flowers for Mother's Day.



Sunday, June 9 ~ Following Divine Liturgy

Girls Ministry will assist Philoptochos in Coffee Hour



For more information, contact Presbytera Mary at marytobias1987@gmail.com or the church office
St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church ~ 733 South Ashland Avenue, Chicago ~ 312-243-3738

Proverbs 22:6

*Train up a child in the way he should
go and when he is old, he will not
depart from it.*



St. Basil Choir

By Melita Green

On February 2nd the Choir Federation Board met at St. Basil to plan for the annual conference scheduled on October 4, 5, and 6. Overall, the board was very impressed with St. Basil and feels that it will be an excellent venue for the conference. The following items were reviewed :

- + Conference budget— reviewed and approved
- + Accommodations for those visiting from out of town
- + Balcony access for choir members

Members of our choir and those from other parishes are practicing every Saturday morning at St. Basil. The liturgical music composed by Frank Desby is beautiful and worshipful. It is a challenge to learn this music as it is different from what we sing every Sunday. We are developing our skills through participation in this conference.

Our choir director, George Panagopoulos, had the vision for hosting this conference and has inspired the rest of us to wholeheartedly follow.

*"Sing a hymn to the Lord and exalt Him beyond measure unto
all the Ages." Daniel 3:57*



As the Chaldean Youths in the fire, we too sing hymns of praise to our Lord and Savior, who preserved His Church of St. Basil through the devastating fire and gloriously restored it to new heights of beauty.

Hosting the 62nd Annual Greek Orthodox Church Music Conference

October 4th, 5th, and 6th, 2019

St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church, 733 South Ashland, Chicago, IL

www.stbasilchicago.org

St. Tryphon Garden Ministry

By Marina Arvanitis



Although the garden has been frozen for months, we celebrated the feast day of our patron saint, the Holy Martyr Tryphon, on February 1.

As a young man, St. Tryphon tended geese. Filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, he also healed sufferings and cast out demons. During the reign of the Emperor Decius, about the year 250, he was betrayed as a Christian and taken to Nicaea, where he was beaten, bound to horses and dragged over rough ground, then dragged naked over nails; his sides were burned with torches; finally he was sentenced to beheading, but gave up his holy soul in his torments before the stroke of the sword.

Saint Tryphon is one of the Holy Unmercenaries (a saint who healed the sick free of charge), and is also invoked for the protection of gardens from insects and pests – including the St. Basil parish gardens.

If you are interested in helping tend the parish gardens this spring and summer, please contact Marina Arvanitis (marvanitis@uwalumni.com).

St. John the Almsgiver Ministry

By Marina Arvanitis

Thank you to everyone who has been distributing survival packs to our homeless brothers and sisters since our last packing event in December. Thank you, again, to all who donated winter clothing items for these winter packs, and to Maria-Kanella and Ryan Koper for donating the hand and body warmers and granola bars.

If you or your family are interested in joining the St. John the Almsgiver Ministry efforts, you can do so by:

- + Distributing survival packs: Please take one to five packs from the table in the Philoptochos Hall and sign out the packs on the sign-out sheet. We ask that you distribute them first to individuals who are closest to St. Basil, such as those near the 290 highway ramps, Ashland Avenue and Taylor Street, the CTA Pink and Blue line stations, etc.
- + Donating for future packs: For the winter months, through March, you can help by donating individually packaged toothbrushes (one toothbrush per package), or by giving a monetary donation to Vicky Crosby, who will mark them for the St. John the Almsgiver Ministry.

Winter Survival Pack Items	
Jewel gift card - \$10	Travel-sized toothpaste
CTA single-transit ticket	Comb
Winter item (hat or gloves or scarf)	Band-Aids
Hand and body warmers	Hand wipes ('Wet Ones' pocket-size singles)
White tube socks	Granola bars
Toothbrush	Bottle of water

New Icon Is a Gift from the Heart

By Pat Cole

When parishioner George Tsagaris looked for a way to express his love for St. Basil Church, he decided to acquire an icon for the baptismal altar. Through his efforts and those of his fiancée, Katerina Sionis, an icon depicting the baptism of Jesus Christ by St. John now graces the baptismal altar near the baptismal font. It was hand-delivered to the church by Ms. Sionis when she visited Chicago from her home in Greece during the Christmas holiday.

The icon is about two feet tall, printed on canvas and mounted on a piece of wood gracefully carved by Spiros Kibouropoulos. Mr. Kibouropoulos, who lives in Athens, has been creating icons for about seven years, and his works can be seen in a few churches around Greece. He has no formal training in art — just a natural, God-given talent, particularly in wood-working. He is a deeply religious man who expresses his faith through his art. He generously donated his time and talent to create the baptismal icon for our church.

Thank you to George Tsagaris, Katerina Sionis, and Spiros Kibouropoulos for your loving and beautiful gift to our church.



Feed My Starving Children Ministry

By Stella Kapetan



Feed My Starving Children Meal Packing Event

Help save starving children in the world's poorest countries at our next Feed My Starving Children Meal Packing event.

FMSC is a Christian nonprofit that since 1987 has provided 2.3 billion meals specially formulated for malnourished children to their partners in more than 70 countries such as Uganda, El Salvador and Haiti. They are used in orphanages, schools, clinics and feeding programs to break the cycle of poverty.

The World Health Organization reports that 6,200 children die each day from hunger-related issues. But you can help. Each volunteer packs 216 meals per session. That means that the more than 100 St. Basil Church parishioners and friends who attended our four previous events have packed more than 24,000 meals.

This is a fun, easy event your family will enjoy. Minimum age is only 5 years. Sit-down jobs are available.

Saturday, March 23

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Feed My Starving Children Packing Site

740 Wiley Farm Court, Schaumburg, IL - (this is where we meet)*

****Please note address change from previous months' newsletter****

Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 20, to stbasilchicago@comcast.net or use the sign-up sheet in Philoptochos Hall. If you have questions, call the church office at 312-243-3738.



Coffee Hour Ministry—Volunteers Needed for 2019

Coffee Hour Ministry 2019 is off to a great start. We thank everyone that has volunteered to host a coffee hour.

The Coffee Hour Ministry at St. Basil allows parishioners the opportunity to host coffee hour twice a month. It's a great way to get involved and promote fellowship at St. Basil while getting to know one another better.

We still have a few open dates for 2019 and are looking for volunteers to either host a coffee hour or participate in one of our potluck luncheons with a team of other parishioners. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office at 312-243-3738.



Sunday, March 3	Apokreatiko Glendi Luncheon
Sunday, March 10	Coffee Hour: Philoptochos
Sunday, March 17	Coffee Hour Ministry: Jenel Damis and Jennifer Georgopoulos
Sunday, March 24	Coffee Hour: Philoptochos
Sunday, March 31	Coffee Hour: Philoptochos

March 13 –Forgiveness Sunday



The Holy Fathers have appointed the commemoration of Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight here, on the eve of the holy Forty-day Fast, demonstrating to us not by simple words, but by actual deeds, how beneficial fasting is for man, and how harmful and destructive are insatiety and the transgressing of the divine commandments. For the first commandment that God gave to man was that of fasting, which the first-fashioned received but did not keep; and not only did they not become gods, as they had imagined, but they lost even that blessed life which they had, and they fell into corruption and death, and transmitted these and innumerable other evils to all of mankind. The God-bearing Fathers set these things before us today, that by bringing to mind what we have fallen from, and what we have suffered because of the insatiety and disobedience of the first-fashioned, we might be diligent to return again to that ancient bliss and glory by means of fasting and obedience to all the divine commands. Taking occasion from today's Gospel (Matt. 6:14-21) to begin the Fast unencumbered by enmity, we also ask forgiveness this day, first from God, then from one another and all creation.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal of the Second Tone

O Master, Prudence, Guide of Wisdom, Instruction to the foolish and Defender of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it discernment. Give me words, Word of the Father, for behold, I shall not keep my lips from crying out to You, "O Merciful One, have mercy on me who has fallen."

March 20 –Sunday of Orthodoxy



For more than one hundred years the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the iconoclasts of evil belief, beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829-842). After Theophilus's death, his widow, the Empress Theodora (celebrated Feb. 11), together with the Patriarch Methodius (June 14), established Orthodoxy anew. This ever-memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of God in the presence of the Patriarch Methodius and the other confessors and righteous men, and openly cried out these holy words: "If anyone does not offer relative worship to the holy icons, not adoring them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema." Then with common prayer and fasting during the whole first week of the Forty-day Fast, she asked God's forgiveness for her husband. After this, on the first Sunday of the Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a procession with all the clergy and people and restored the holy icons, and again adorned the Church of Christ with them. This is the holy deed that all we the Orthodox commemorate today, and we call this radiant and venerable day the Sunday of Orthodoxy; that

is, the triumph of true doctrine over heresy.

Apolytikion in the Second Tone

O Christ our God, begging forgiveness of our sins, we venerate Your Pure Image, O Good One. Of your own will you condescended to ascend upon the Cross in the flesh and deliver those You created from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, thankfully, we cry out, "When You came to save the world, Your filled all things with joy, O Our Savior."

March 25 –The Annunciation

Six months after John the Forerunner's conception, the Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth, a town of Galilee, unto Mary the Virgin, who had come forth from the Temple a mature maiden (see Nov. 21). According to the tradition handed down by the Fathers, she had been betrothed to Joseph four months. On coming to Joseph's house, the Archangel declared: "Rejoice, thou Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." After some consideration, and turmoil of soul, and fear because of this greeting, the Virgin, when she had finally obtained full assurance concerning God's unsearchable condescension and the ineffable dispensation that was to take place through her, and believing that all things are possible to the Most High, answered in humility: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And at this, the Holy Spirit came upon her, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her all-blameless womb, and the Son and Word of God,



Who existed before the ages, was conceived past speech and understanding, and became flesh in her immaculate body (Luke 1:26-38).

Bearing in her womb the Uncontainable One, the blessed Virgin went with haste from Nazareth to the hill country of Judea, where Zacharias had his dwelling; for she desired to find Elizabeth her kinswoman and rejoice together with her, because, as she had learned from the Archangel, Elizabeth had conceived in her old age. Furthermore, she wished to tell her of the great things that the Mighty One had been well-pleased to bring to pass in her, and she greeted Elizabeth and drew nigh to her. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, she felt her six-month-old babe, Saint John the Baptist, prophesied of the dawning of the spiritual Sun. Immediately, the aged Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and recognized her as the Mother of her Lord, and with a great voice blessed her and the Fruit that she held within herself. The Virgin also, moved by a supernatural rejoicing in the spirit, glorified her God and Savior, saying: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour," and the rest, as the divine Luke hath recorded (1:39-55).

Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

Today marks the crowning of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery before all ages. For the Son of God becomes the son of the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaims the grace. Wherefore, we also cry out with him, "Hail, O full of grace, the Lord is with you."

Kontakion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

March 27 –Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

This divine Father, who was from Asia Minor, was from childhood reared in the royal court of Constantinople, where he was instructed in both religious and secular wisdom. Later, while still a youth, he left the imperial court and struggled in asceticism on Mount Athos, and in the Skete at Beroea. He spent some time in Thessalonica being treated for an illness that came from his harsh manner of life. He was present in Constantinople at the Council that was convened in 1341 against Barlaam of Calabria, and at the Council of 1347 against Acindynus, who was of like mind with Barlaam; Barlaam and Acindynus claimed that the grace of God is created. At both these Councils, the Saint contended courageously for the true dogmas of the Church of Christ, teaching in particular that divine grace is not created, but is the uncreated energies of God which are poured forth throughout creation: otherwise it would be impossible, if grace were created, for man to have genuine communion with the uncreated God. In 1347 he was appointed Metropolitan of Thessalonica. He tended his flock in an apostolic manner for some twelve years, and wrote many books and treatises on the most exalted doctrines of our faith; and having lived for a total of sixty-three years, he reposed in the Lord in 1359.



His holy relics are kept in the Cathedral of Thessalonica. A full service was composed for his feast day by the Patriarch Philotheus in 1368, when it was established that his feast be celebrated on this day. Since works without right faith avail nothing, we set Orthodoxy of faith as the foundation of all that we accomplish during the Fast, by celebrating the Triumph of Orthodoxy the Sunday before, and the great defender of the teachings of the holy Fathers today.

Apolytikion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

O Gregory the Miracle Worker, light of Orthodoxy, support and teacher of the Church, comeliness of Monastics, invincible defender of theologians, the pride of Thessalonica, and preacher of grace, intercede forever that our souls may be saved.



ST. BASIL FAMILY Presents:
**OLD FASHION
APOKREATIKO GLENDI**

When: March 3rd, 2019 – After Liturgy

Where: Philoptochos Hall (at St. Basil)

Cost: Adults: \$25

Children 13 and under: \$10

Please call the church office for Reservations 312-243-3738



Koulouma Pot-Luck Dinner

Following Great Compline (6:00 pm)

Clean Monday, March 11, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Lenten Lecture Series 2019

Lent affords all Orthodox Christians a time of reflection and spiritual strengthening with increased fasting, prayer and services as we move towards the Passion and glorious, saving Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. Each Wednesday evening during Great and Holy Lent we will be offering edifying lectures at St. Basil. These Lectures will take place after the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy and meal provided by one of our many wonderful Ministries

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy begins at 6:00 p.m. Dinner followed by presentation 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 13

Having a "Great" Lent at any Stage of Life

Speaker: Dr. Randa Anderson

Sponsor: Sunday School



Wednesday, March 20

Orthodoxy & Medical Healing

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Theodore Saclarides

Sponsor: St. Basil Medical Ministry



Wednesday, March 27

Celestial Hierarchy

Speaker: Rev. Dn. Christian Siskos

Sponsor: St. Basil Parish Council



Wednesday, April 3

Forgiveness: Jacob DeShazer & St. Dionysios of Zakynthos

Speaker: Rev. Fr. Dimitri Tobias

Sponsor: St. Basil Philoptochos



Wednesday, April 10

St. Mary of Egypt and the Power of Repentance

Speaker: Ms. Eleni Geanon

Sponsor: Welcoming Ministry



St. Basil — Super Bash

February 3, 2019

We would like to thank The Billy Goat Tavern for hosting the St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church Super Bash on Super Bowl Sunday. Thank you to the Frankos and Michas families for organizing this wonderful event and thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy it.





Go Red Sunday

February 10, 2019

St. Basil Philoptochos hosted Go Red Sunday to help raise awareness about heart disease, the number one killer of women and men in America. Father Dimitri discussed the link between healthy habits and a healthy soul. Red roses were passed out to raise awareness. The Philoptochos served heart-healthy food during coffee hour. Who says healthy food doesn't taste good?!? Our beloved parishioner, Dr. Marina Arvanitis, did blood pressure checks and talked about the proper way to take your blood pressure. Informative materials on a variety of topics including how to improve cholesterol, the importance of being physically active, and healthful eating plans were available for parishioners to take home. It was a great opportunity for all of us to learn more about heart health.



American Heart Association®



Stewardship Appreciation Sunday

February 17, 2019

Thank you to our stewardship committee for the fabulous lunch to celebrate Stewardship Appreciation Sunday.

This year is off to a great start with 127 Stewards signed up so far.



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St. Basil — 2019 Stewards

<p>A Michael Angelakos Stella Antonoglu Marina Arvanitis & Ed Franklin Thomas & Lauren Arvanitis Leia Asimacopoulos</p> <p>B Gregory & Maria Bairaktaris Andrew Bannos Dr. Robert & Dr. Sophia Sarkos-Barnes Tom & Leslie Bezanes Dorothy Bezemes John & Patoula Billiris Matthew Bills John & Dr. Christine Bishof Nick & Angie Brinias John & Cassy Brinkman</p> <p>C John & Venus Campanelli John & Eleni Chioros Chris Christides Ernest & Christine Schenk Cochanis Stephan & Patricia Patsis-Cole Maria Constantinides Pam Cosmos Thomas Couston</p> <p>D Tim & Jenel Damis Anesti & Emily Dhima Matt & Alexis Douglas Petros & Nichole Drimonas Gus Drugas Amelia Duka</p> <p>F Themis & Angeline Fabiatos Martin & Elaine Fosse Charles & Rosemary Fountas Ioannis Fountas Nicholas & Vicky Fountas Zach & Kalliopi Fountas Tony & Georgia Fragale John Frangias Themis Frangos Andrea Frankos Tony & Helene Frankos</p> <p>G Nick & Jennifer Georgopoulos George Goltsos Melita Green Kevin & Kathryn Gulley</p>	<p>H Sophia Haritos Arthur & Angie Harris Melanie Hillock Philip & Katherine Hiotis Willaim & Catherine Hostetler</p> <p>K Stella Kapetan Aris Kapsopoulos Demetra Karas George & Karen Karas Dean & Maria Kartsimas Zarif & Maria Karwandyar Ralli Katsikas Charles & Jean Katsoulis Evan & Eleni Katsoulis Nick Katsoulis Peter Katsoulis Dr. Kenneth & Arlene Kehl Tony & Christina Kidonakis Vana Kikos John Koliopoulos Eleni Kontalonis Ryan & Maria Kanella Koper Phyllis Koumantos John & Eugenia Kourvas Constantine & Anastasia Koutsoubas Frank Kuchuris</p> <p>L John & Anna Lambros Ekaterini Lekkas Andy Lipscomb Elias Loumakis</p> <p>M Dina Manasses Eleni Manasses Vicky Manasses Dean & Anastasia Maragos Carl & Natalie Michas Harry & Kathy Michas</p> <p>O Dr. Ben & Karina Onderdonk</p> <p>P James & Bess Pabin George Panagopoulos Dimos & Angela Panousakis Rhonda Panousakis Sophia Panousakis Marice Papadakis Sam Pappas Ken & Helen Paspalas-Rubenstein Lambros & Mary Peroulas Mark Phillip Eleni Pontikes John & Carol Pontikes Joann Prekezes</p>	<p>R Jonathan Ramirez John Regas Robert & Irene Rohrman Anthony & Christina Rouches Demetra Rouches Sam & Christine Rousakis</p> <p>S Irene Santos Jayme Schenk Konstantinos & Marisa Schoinas Harold & Cindy Schroeder Emily Sedares Nicholas Senopoulos Panagiota Sianis Paul & Pamela Sianis Tom & Eleni Sianis Grigorios & Debra Skourletos John Stathopoulos Brian & Nicole Steinberg Kathy Stratton Irar Sweiss</p> <p>T Gerasim & Edith Tikoff Dr. Richard & Angela Tobias Fr. Dimitri & Presvytera Mary Tobias Nick & Kristen Triandafilou George Tsagaris MariaTsagaris Anthony Tsenes George & Juliana Tziahanas</p> <p>V Catherine Valsamoulis Dee Vergos</p> <p>W Kathy Walstrom Melanie Walstrom</p> <p>Z George & Dorothy Zimbrakos</p>
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St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church - March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy 1st Saturday of Souls
3 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Apokreitiko Glendi	4 7:00 pm Divorce Rebuilders Group 7:00 pm Parish Council Meeting	5 7:00 pm Teacher meeting	6 11:00 am Bible Study	7 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri	8	9 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy 2nd Saturday of Souls 10:00 am Philoptochos Baking
10 8:15 am Liturgy 7:00 pm Forgiveness Vespers	11 6:00 pm Great Compline & Koulouma 7:00 pm Divorce Rebuilders Group	12 6:00 pm Great Compline HSA MEETING & Prayer for Midterms	13 11:00 am Bible Study 3:00 pm Philoptochos Baking 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy with Speaker and Dinner	14 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri	15 6:00 pm Salutations to the Theotokos (Χαιρετισμοί)	16 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy 3rd Saturday of Souls
17 St. Patrick's Day Sunday of Orthodoxy - students bring icons for procession 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers	18 7:00 pm Divorce Rebuilders Group	19 6:00 pm Great Compline	20 11:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy with Speaker and Dinner	21 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri	22 6:00 pm Salutations to the Theotokos (Χαιρετισμοί)	23 Girls Ministry at FMSC 11:30 am Feed My Starving Children
24 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Great Vespers of the Annunciation	25 6:30 am Divine Liturgy for Annunciation Orthros & Divine Liturgy of the Annunciation (at Cathedral)	26 6:00 pm Great Compline	27 11:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy with Speaker and Dinner	28 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri	29 6:00 pm Salutations to the Theotokos (Χαιρετισμοί)	30
31 St John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival 2019 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy 11:30 am SJCof						

St. Basil March Events



Koulouma Pot-Luck Dinner
Following Great Compline (6:00 pm)
Clean Monday, March 11, 2019
7:00 p.m.



Saturday, March 23
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Feed My Starving Children Packing Site
740 Wiley Farm Court, Schaumburg, IL



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church
733 South Ashland Ave.
Chicago, IL 60607